



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2013**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-5837)

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

Present:            Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson  
Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner  
Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Anne S. Hill, Commissioner  
Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Susan Burton and  
Commissioner Maxine Russell M.A., M.S.

Staff Present:    Bolaji Famuyiwa and Nyla Jefferson    (13-5839)

Call to Order.    (13-5723)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioners Hill, Bigby and Burton joined at 10:08 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 10:24 a.m. respectively.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the December 4, 2013 Minutes. (13-5724)

**On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 4, 2013 were approved as amended.**

**On page 3, the first paragraph should read:**

- ~~Commissioner Russell visited Aviva Center, Hamburger House (Center), Page 1, #3, on November 26, 2013. She reported that the~~

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~~Center appeared very disorganized, only one person had the key to the new beauty salon and was not available to open the salon in a timely manner. The escort was unable to answer her questions and there were no carbon monoxide detectors installed. There were no dishes available to serve the youth only disposable paper products. The youth gratitude journals were well maintained.~~

- Commissioner Russell visited Aviva Center, Hamburger House (Center), Page 1, #3, on November 26, 2013. She reported that she had to wait for about half an hour to get an escort to conduct the inspection. Only one staffperson had the key to the inside cupboard where the products were stored and the staff was not available to open the cupboard. The escort (staff) was unable to answer the Commissioner's questions and there were no carbon monoxide detectors installed. There were dishes, but they only had disposable paper cups to serve the youth. The youth gratitude journals were well maintained.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

2. Chairperson's Report on various items for December 11, 2013. (13-5725)

**Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:**

### **Los Angeles Times:**

- Monday morning massacre (December 10, 2013)
- 18 Arrests in Jail Probe (December 10, 2013)
- Scandal fallout for Baca unclear (December 11, 2013)
- In Baca's parallel universe (December 11, 2013)

### **Daily Breeze:**

- L.A. deputies arrested y FBI (December 10, 2013)
- Union leader defends deputies (December 11, 2013)

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report for December 11, 2013. (13-5726)

**Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance**

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**of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$805.96.**

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for December 11, 2013. (13-5727)

**There was no report.**

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on December 11, 2013. (13-5728)

**There were no reports.**

6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from December 5, 2013 to December 10, 2013. (13-5729)

**During the reporting period, the following Group Home/Facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:**

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Careprovider Organization Foundation (Children & Family Service I), Page 4, #1, on December 10, 2013. This was the third visit and each time the provider was requested to make repairs to the floors in the kitchen and in the family room; the provider is yet to take any corrective action. After the third visit, Commissioner Bigby issued a Corrective Action Response form.**

**Staff was asked to report the findings to the Board of Supervisors.**

**During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory conditions:**

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews revisited Santa Clarita Valley Station (SCVS), on December 10, 2013. The Commissioners observed that the pornography poster had been removed, the trustees' quarters looked a little cleaner; however, the graffiti was still on the walls and the fire extinguisher was not recharged as requested by the Commissioners. The Commissioners inspected the inmates' cells for cleanliness and found that the cells needed more care.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Dimondale (Carson), Page 12, #2, on December 9, 2013.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited Hillsides Home for Children (Boys Satellite Home), Page 21, #2, on December 6, 2013.**

**During the reporting period, the following Group Home/Facility was visited, but not inspected:**

- **Commissioner Russell visited Orange County Children's Foundation (Emancipation Institute), Page 30, #1, on December 10, 2013 and reported that no one was home.**

### **III. PRESENTATION**

7. **Presentation on Programs for Foster Care Youth in Group Homes in South Los Angeles.**

Danielle Borgia, Ph.D.  
Loyola Marymount University (13-5733)

**Commissioner Grills informed the Commission that she invited Danielle Borgia, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Women's Studies, and two of her students to present on the recreational and extracurricular opportunities that are available to the youth in South Los Angeles (South L.A.). The invitation is a follow-up to the concern she brought to the Commission a few months ago regarding the lack of recreational/extracurricular activities for the youth in the group homes in the South L.A. area, and her offer to see if there was a class at Loyola Marymount University that was willing to take on the task of finding recreational opportunities in South L.A. The Commissioners can then refer the group home providers to those programs.**

**Dr. Borgia opened her presentation by stating that they found a lot of amazing recreational and extracurricular activities opportunities in the South L.A. area. Some of the programs can help develop the physical and creative skills of the youth, as well as encourage their individual interest. They also found that some of the program providers were willing to take their programs to the group homes; some have established centers and others can make arrangements to pick-up the youth from the group homes and transport them to the centers.**

**She further reported that they have compiled the information of about 40 non-profit organizations that are willing to work with the group homes to set up specific programs for free or for a minimal price. A few of the organizations that were identified included the Boys and Girls Club of South LA, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Centers; and the Los Angeles Police Department. Others were Free Arts, a program that provides art therapy for abused and neglected youths. Free Arts has agreed to go out to the South LA group homes to provide their services to the kids. The California Center for Economic Initiatives is an organization that takes specific inner city youth from South LA. Their activities**

are science and technology oriented, exposing the youth to activities that create academic and career potentials. The Media Aid Center, also in South LA, provides media technology and digital media to youth who eventually adopt the activity as a hobby. A Place Called Home & People Who Care are organizations with a lot of highly trained individuals who can be mentors to the youth.

At the request of the Commission, Dr. Borgia will assign another group of students to take on similar task of identifying the programs that are available to the group home youth in other areas of the County.

Concluding her presentation, Dr. Borgia advised the Commission that prior to making their final recommendations, they plan on visiting the organizations to observe and assess the available programs.

Attachments:    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

8. Psychotropic Medication Use Among Children in Foster Care: A National and State-Level Perspective. (Continued from meeting of October 30, 2013, November 13, 2013 and December 4, 2013)

Discussion regarding the Commission's role/involvement in the review and documentation of how psychotropic medications are administered to the children/youth in the group homes. (13-5053)

During the discussions regarding the Commission's role/involvement in the review and documentation of how psychotropic medications (Meds) are administered to the children/youth in the group homes, Commissioner Russell informed the Commission that she met with the mental health deputy at Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office to discuss the administration of Meds. Some of the concerns expressed included: 1) The diagnosis is going to stay with the youth for life including the side effects; 2) Some of the youth are addicted to drugs before entering the group homes and then they are placed on 6-7 different Meds; 3) There are no treatment plans to address how to discontinue the Meds and; 4) There is a huge behavioral control issues, the kids are falling asleep in class while in school and others are laid down tired on the floor at the group homes. Commissioner Russell further expressed that the Commissioners are advocates for the youth and should be able to identify and make an appropriate report whenever there is an indication or a red flag that the administration of Meds may be abused. She stated that the Supervisor's deputy concurred that those red flags should be reported to the Board of Supervisors.

**The Commissioners discussed the possibility of having the Department of Children and Family Services to create a form with a checklist of the red flags that may indicate abusive use of Meds so that the Commissioners can identify those indicators when conducting their inspections.**

**In conclusion, Commissioner Grills stated that the Commissioners should first come to a consensus to pay attention to the number of children on Meds when inspecting the group homes, check for trends, type and the dosage. If there is a trend, the Commissioners should raise the question with DCFS at the monthly business meetings to check into the appropriateness of the administration of the Meds. (2) The Commissioners need to have a conversation with DCFS to find out how they are doing their internal check and balances on the Meds that are being administered to the youth to ensure that there are no abusive uses, and 3) Find out what DCFS is doing to address the behaviors that is causing the youth to be placed on the Meds. The Commissioners were in agreement.**

## **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Matters Not Posted**

- 9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5730)**

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

### **Public Comment**

- 10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5731)**

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

### **Adjournment**

- 11. Adjournment for the meeting of December 11, 2013. (13-5732)**

**There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting in memory of Nelson "Madiba" Mandela on December 11, 2013 at 11:38 a.m.**

